

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13. (canceled).

14 (currently amended). A method of treating ~~incoming wastewater~~ sludge containing biologically-active cellular units, comprising:

- (a) directing ~~at least a portion of the incoming wastewater~~ sludge to an electroporating station;
- (b) electroporating the ~~at least a portion of the incoming wastewater~~ sludge for destroying at least most of the cellular units contained therein; and
- said (b) causing disruption of the cellular units, allowing for the release of matter; and
- (c) directing the released matter to a bioreactor for performing biological digestion thereon whereby the matter is used as food.

15 (previously presented). The method according to claim 14, wherein (c) comprises delivering the released matter to at least one of: an aerobic, anoxic, facultative, or anaerobic bioreactor.

16 (currently amended). The method according to claim 14, further comprising, before (a):

- (d) transporting the ~~incoming wastewater~~ sludge from a primary treatment apparatus to at least one bioreactor of a secondary treatment apparatus; and

(e) said (c) comprising recycling the released matter back to said at least one bioreactor of (d).

17 (previously presented). The method according to claim 16, wherein (e) comprises delivering the destroyed cellular units of (b) to one of: an aerobic, anoxic, facultative, or anaerobic bioreactor.

18 (previously presented). The method according to claim 16, wherein said secondary treatment apparatus further comprises a sludge dewatering apparatus; said (c) further comprising:

(f) delivering the destroyed cellular units of (b) to another bioreactor downstream from said at least one bioreactor and upstream of said sludge dewatering apparatus.

19 (previously presented). The method according to claim 18, wherein (c) comprises delivering the destroyed cellular units of (b) to one of: an aerobic, anoxic, facultative, or anaerobic bioreactor.

20 (currently amended). The method according to claim 14, further comprising, before said (a):

(f) transporting the ~~incoming wastewater~~ sludge from a primary treatment apparatus to a secondary treatment apparatus;

said secondary treatment apparatus comprising a sludge dewatering apparatus; said (c) comprising delivering the destroyed cellular units of (b) to a bioreactor upstream of said sludge dewatering apparatus.

21 (currently amended). A method of treating ~~incoming wastewater~~ sludge containing biologically-active cellular units, comprising:

(a) ~~delivering at least a portion of said incoming wastewater~~ sludge to an electroporation apparatus;

(b) electroporating said ~~at least a portion of said incoming wastewater~~ sludge in said electroporation apparatus by exposing said ~~at least a portion of said incoming wastewater~~ sludge to a pulsed electric field to disrupt said cellular units and to release matter; and

(c) delivering said matter to at least one bioreactor for reaction therewith;

said (c) comprising supplying said matter as food for said at least one bioreactor.

22 (previously presented). The method according to claim 21, wherein (c) comprises delivering said matter to at least one of: an aerobic, anoxic, facultative, or anaerobic bioreactor.

23 (currently amended). A method of treating ~~incoming wastewater~~ sludge containing biologically-active cellular units, comprising:

(a) ~~delivering at least a portion of said incoming wastewater~~ sludge to an electroporation apparatus;

(b) electroporating said ~~at least a portion of said incoming wastewater~~ sludge in said electroporation apparatus by exposing said ~~at least a portion of said incoming wastewater~~ sludge to a pulsed electric field to disrupt said cellular units and to release organic matter; and

(c) supplying said released organic matter as food to a means for biologically digesting organic matter.

24 (previously presented). The method according to claim 23, wherein (c) comprises delivering the released organic matter to at least one of: an aerobic, anoxic, facultative, or anaerobic bioreactor.

Serial No. 10/795,944
Reply dated March 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated December 16, 2004

25 (currently amended). The method according to claim 23, further comprising, before (a):

(d) transporting said ~~incoming wastewater~~ sludge from a primary treatment apparatus to at least one bioreactor of a secondary treatment apparatus; and

(e) said (c) comprising recycling the released matter back to said at least one bioreactor of (d).

26 (previously presented). The method according to claim 25, wherein (e) comprises delivering the disrupted cellular units of (b) to one of: an aerobic, anoxic, facultative, or anaerobic bioreactor.

Claims 27-29 (canceled).